



SCOTLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
2023 - 2024
PRINCIPAL NEWSLETTER (Biweekly)

October, 2023

Dear SES School Family,

October can be such a beautiful time of the year. We look forward to the beautiful colors Mother Nature brings us during the Autumn season. It feels as if we have had plenty of rain, so when the rain eventually stops, the trees will be beautiful with fall colors.



The school year is well under way and we are excited with the progress of our students. Sometimes there are growing pains when bringing people together. We assure you that we are continually learning and improving upon practices for improved scheduling, behavior expectations, and building our 2023-2024 school community. This is a work in progress and improving every day as we get to know our students and families. We will achieve success on every level of our expectations for the success of our Scotland Elementary school community of learners.

On all grade levels, we have been completing grade-level pre-assessments that will provide accurate academic insights into where children are in their learning. These assessments measure achievement and growth in math, reading, and language usage. It will provide our teachers with accurate, and actionable evidence to help target instruction for each student or groups of students regardless of how far above or below they are from their grade level. As educators we will connect to a set of instructional content, giving our teachers flexibility in curriculum choices for individualized student learning.

We find that providing a well-rounded instructional program, focused professional development, effective parent engagement and responsive techniques (PBIS) that address the social and emotional needs of students yield positive learning outcomes for all. Over the past few weeks and continuing this month, we have had engaged student learning and it remains strong. I truly believe that if we allow teachers to teach in meaningful, relevant and engaging ways, that student chances of demonstrating academic excellence are enhanced.

As the year continues, we hope you can find a way to be a part of our school community. A well-rounded education requires everyone getting involved in student learning. Whether it be volunteering in PTO, ensuring your student is well-rested and prepared for school, or reviewing homework, all efforts will result in heightened student engagement in school.

The fall is a very busy time here at SES. Make this year memorable and celebrate your child's success. We thank you for your commitment and look forward to a continued partnership in educating your children. We are excited about our back to school progress and we continue to improve and settle in, each and every day, that we are in session.

Warm Autumn wishes,
Ann Knowles, Principal

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, October 3rd

- PTO Meeting Café 3:15 PM
- Flu Clinic 4:30 – 7:30 PM
Children only ages 4-18 years in Cafe
- BOE Meeting Library 7 PM

Friday, October 6th NO SCHOOL

Professional Learning for staff

Monday, October 9th NO SCHOOL

Columbus Day

Tuesday, October 10th Lutz Children's Museum here for presentation Gr. 2 & 3

Thursday, October 12th

- Field Trip Gr. 4 to Auer Farm in Bloomfield

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER:

Thursday, October 19th

- Field Trip Gr. 5 & 6 to CT Science Center

Friday, October 27th

Trunk or Treat at PHHS

Tuesday, October 31st

Happy Halloween



Wed., Nov. 8th & Thurs., Nov. 9th

EARLY RELEASE 1 PM Both Days

- Parent Teacher Conferences
 - Wednesday 1 – 7 PM
 - Thursday 1 - 4 PM

Friday, November 10th NO SCHOOL

Veteran's Day Observed



Handbook

Our Family Handbook is available on our website. The handbook is a great resource as it has some general information as well as contact numbers for

LUNCH PROGRAM Monthly Lunch menus have been provided. All students are able to receive free breakfast and lunch daily at school.



REMINDER: I am so excited to announce that our school is transitioning to electronic health records. It is the same software that most CT schools use, including Region 11 middle and high schools.

If your child visits the health office and requires treatment or an assessment from the nurse, you will receive an encrypted email detailing the clinical documentation. You will also receive an email with the password that you will use to open any further emails from the health office. Most often these emails go straight to your inbox, but some servers may send it to a junk folder. Please add noreply@hosting.snaphealthcenter.com to your contacts list to ensure that you receive any emails from me sent via the SNAP health center.

Email will be my primary method of contact, but I will continue to call parents/guardians for any serious concerns that need to be communicated in a timely manner. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the health office or email me at ssr.rock@scotlandes.org.
Be well,
Nurse Sharon

REMINDERS:

- Keep your child home when sick and please call or email (ssr.rock@scotlandes.org) as soon as you know your child will be out. This allows us to know that our students are safe at home with you. This way we don't have to call parents and inquire as to the whereabouts of their child.
- If you are planning on taking a family vacation, send an email to (aknowles@scotlandes.org) or a written note. The office will respond and will be able to document those days.
- If a child is absent, please send in a note immediately upon their return.



PTO

NEXT MEETING:

TUESDAY, October 3rd

at 3:15 PM Café

*We have
future events
planned and
we need
your help!*



We love our Volunteers!
Please sign up to help
with our school events!



Welcome to the School Counselor's Corner



School Counselor's Corner: A few things that will be happening this year are student council, lunch bunches, peer mediation and more! Class lessons at least once a month to all grade levels.

Every year I like to remind families of SES how I am always here to help them. **Student Council** for Grades 4, 5 & 6 will continue this year. Mrs. Alejandro will be the advisor for this wonderful group. They are the student leaders of SES and we enjoy many activities guided by them throughout the year.

School Counselor Practices: I always teach our children at SES is that we can only control ourselves and the choices we make. One practice I have focused on over the years is changing our negative thoughts into positive ones! We do this by beginning to think about what we think about. Luckily, we can rewire our brains with each thought. A positive, loving thought can create new neural pathways that can be strengthened over time. The process is called neuroplasticity and can happen at any age. WE HAVE A CHOICE! We can always choose a thought response as opposed to a negative reaction. We cannot always choose what happens to us, but we can always choose how to respond. We can respond with patience and love. So today practice with your child turning those, "I can't do this..." into "I can't do this...YET!"

Safety of all is our highest priority. As you know each month we practice different safety drills. In October, we will practice our annual bus evacuation drill. We will work with the bus drivers, Savino Transportation, and with SES staff and students. Students in the morning will be practicing the drill upon arrival with adult supervision. By practicing the drill first thing in the morning, allows the opportunity for all students who ride our buses to participate in this safety drill.

